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news release

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MEMBERS TESTIFY AT BASE CLOSURE HEARINGS

WASHINGTON, DC -- Today Representative de la Garza appeared before the Chairman and members of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC) as the second of two days of hearings was held to hear from and receive testimony of Members on the 1995 Base Closure and Realignment Commission recommendations.

Texas, among all 50 states, would be hit hardest by the BRAC recommendations, and while no facilities in the 15th district were targeted by the Department of Defense, the South Texas Congressman wanted to express his strong support for the existing military structure in Texas. At the hearing Congressman de la Garza stressed how important it is to "fight for Texas" because these bases are vital both to our communities and to our national defense."

By the end of the month the base closure panel will present President Clinton with its recommendations for closure or realignment. After the Commission makes its recommendation and the President reviews the list, Congress must accept it or reject it in its entirety.

Mr de la Garza's statement follows: